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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/282,615	03/31/1999	JEFFREY RANDELL DEAN	AT9-98-260	8851

7590

01/18/2002

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES
CORPORATION
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EXAMINER

VIG, NARESH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2165

DATE MAILED: 01/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/282,615

Applicant(s)

DEAN ET AL.

Examiner

Naresh Vig

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

On page 3, line 17 presently read as "... involvement in the internet ...", which the examiner suggests it should be rewritten to "... involvement over the internet ..."

On page 4, lines 27 and 30, the word "distributer" is misspelled, which the examiner suggest it should be rewritten to "distributor"

On page 22, claim 1, line 27, presently read as "... system needs solutions", which the examiner suggests it should be rewritten to "...system needs..." or "...system solutions..."

On page 22, claim 7, line 27, presently read as "... system needs solutions", which the examiner suggests it should be rewritten to "...system needs..." or "...system solutions..."

On page 25, claim 13, line 1, presently read as "A computer program having program code included ...", which the examiner suggests it should be rewritten to "A computer program included...", or, "A computer code included ..."

On page 26, claim 13, line 29, presently read as "...system needs solutions", which the examiner suggests it should be rewritten to "...system needs..." or "...system solutions..."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claim 1 – 18 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as being unpatentable over the online shopping at Dell. Regarding claim 1, Dell has a website "www.dell.com" which teaches us a method comprising of:

- Provide interactive display to the purchasers of computer system.
- Prompt each of a plurality of system purchasers a sequence of interactive data entries, each of the entries relative to needs of the computer system.
- Applying business rules to data entries to produce system needs/solution for the purchasers.
- Track quantities of said computer components, reconcile purchaser's system needs based on Dell's business requirements.

Regarding claim 2, the website also teaches us the user interactive display system offering purchasers to modify in quantities of selected allocated components including offering financial incentives to purchasers for accepting the modifications.

Regarding claim 3, the website also teaches us the user interactive display system offering purchasers to modify in quantities of selected allocated components

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including means for reconciling purchaser's system needs with the quantities, and, means for automatically offering financial incentives to purchasers based upon reconciling.

Regarding claim 4 and 5, the website also teaches us that the user interactive display system includes means for dynamically modifying Dell's business rules.

Regarding claim 6, 12 and 18, the website also teaches us the user interactive display system wherein computer systems being configured can be network systems.

Regarding claim 7, the website also teaches us the user interactive display system provided to purchasers to configure computer systems including computer components comprising of:

- Prompting each of plurality of purchasers to make sequence of interactive data entries relative to the needs of the purchaser.
- Apply data entries of each said purchasers to produce a system needs solution for each of purchaser.
- Track the quantities of each component sold by Dell to the purchasers.
- Track quantities of computer components to produce quantities for each of the computer components based on Dell's business needs.

- Offering to purchasers modification in quantities of components, reconcile purchaser's system needs with quantities of components based upon Dell's business needs.

Regarding claim 8, the website also teaches us the process by first offering the financial incentives to the purchasers before they modify the selected components.

Regarding claim 9, the website also teaches us the process by offering to purchasers modifications in quantities of selected components by reconciling purchaser's system needs, and, offering the financial incentives to the purchasers, based upon Dell's rules.

Regarding claim 10 and 11, the website also teaches us the process wherein Dell's business rules may be dynamically modified.

Regarding claim 13, Dell teaches us about a computer program included on a computer readable medium operable in user interactive display provided to purchasers of computer systems, for configuring computer systems including computer components comprising of:

- Prompting plurality of purchasers to make sequence of data entries, each entry relative to the data processing needs of the purchaser of one computer system.

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- Applying Dell's business rules to data entries of each purchaser to produce system needs solution for each of the purchasers.
- Allocate computer components to the computer system of each purchaser based upon needs of the purchaser.
- Track the quantities of each computer component sold by Dell to all purchasers.
- Track quantities of computer components to produce quantities for each of the computer components based on Dell's business needs.
- Offering to purchasers modification in quantities of components, reconcile purchaser's system needs with quantities of components based upon Dell's business needs.

Regarding claim 14, Dell teaches us about a computer program included on a computer readable medium operable in user interactive display provided to purchasers of computer systems, to first offer the financial incentives to the purchasers before they modify the selected components.

Regarding claim 15, Dell teaches us about a computer program included on a computer readable medium operable in user interactive display provided to purchasers of computer systems, by offering to purchasers modifications in quantities of selected components by reconciling purchaser's system needs, and, offering the financial incentives to the purchasers, based upon Dell's rules.

Regarding claim 16 and 17, Dell teaches us about a computer program included on a computer readable medium operable in user interactive display provided to purchasers of computer systems, wherein Dell's business rules may be dynamically modified.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. Sample of online purchase of computer system at " www.dell.com "
2. "Dell Relaunches E-Commerce Site with New Features"
3. "Baiting The Channel -- Vendors hook distributors"

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naresh Vig whose telephone number is 703.305.3372. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 - 5:00 (Alt Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn Coggins can be reached on 703.308.1344. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703.746.7239 for regular communications and 703.746.7238 for After Final communications.


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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.305.3900.

January 9, 2002



WYNN COGGINS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100